

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Worship is a place to rest. We breathe deeply here.

People: We sit in the quiet. We surround ourselves with music.

Leader: Worship is a place to rest. Worship is a place to grow.

People: We listen for God's word. We invite it to challenge us.

Leader: We lean in with curiosity. We ask questions.

People: Worship is a place to grow.

Leader: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

People: For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.

All: Let us worship our gracious God. Let us grow.

*POEM OF INVITATION

*HYMN "Hear the Good News of Salvation" Hymnal **441**

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest. We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest. There are also days when we fail to act. We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction. God, forgive our imbalance. Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel: God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Pew Bible p.558

Luke 13:1-9

Pew Bible p.738

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" Hymnal **275**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GOING INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN "When Peace like a River" Hymnal 840

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME to worship - we are glad that you're here! If you are visiting today and would like to share your contact information, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate. Everyone is invited to stay for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex after worship.



LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary.



Children up to Kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.

The communion table flowers for March are sponsored by Lucy and Kay Witt.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
March 23, 2025*



Third Sunday

IN LENT

Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 23, 2025

Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Children's Sunday school
Tuesday	7:15 pm	Prayer group meeting
Wednesday	Jersey Mike's fundraiser for Food Pantry	
Wednesday	9:30 am	Coffee hour at church
Wednesday	7:30 pm	Lenten Bible study on Zoom

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 39
 Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$65,927.15
 Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$61,772.47

The prayer ministry will meet this Tuesday at 7:15 pm in the prayer room (formerly the library). Please bring a small prayer notebook or journal and plan to stay about an hour. Questions? Speak to Todd Carter.



This Wednesday, **Jersey Mike's in Eagle River is donating 100% of sales on March 26 to the Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry!** Our workday in the food pantry will be after worship next Sunday, March 30, for about one to two hours, depending on the number of participants.



Save the date for future fellowship events! After worship on **April 13**, we will go for a hike to Thunderbird Falls. On **May 17**, we will have another potluck and game night.



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From the bulletin cover artist, Hannah Garrity:

In this circular image, two figures lean in over the tree; their heads are full of ideas for fruiting, their bodies are full of fig leaf patterns. (The two circular shapes with fruit seeds inside of them represent the figures' heads; the branch-like imagery beneath the heads represent their shoulders) Their ideas and dreams have not born fruit. They converse about how to cultivate growth. Then one pushes back against the other and creates tension, discord. From that tension comes an opening, letting the fig tree have its time and space to thrive. In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. As I wonder about God's presence here in the parable, I see that the God figure could be the fig tree. "Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it," the vineyard keeper replies. As I breathe into the gift of another day, where do I see potential in need of my honor, my care, and the space and time to grow? Or perhaps the God figure here is in the space between them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between.

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